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GROUP EPORTFOLIO PROJECT: APPLYING AN ETHICAL PERSPECTIVE TO A GLOBAL ISSUE

The project is a group ePortfolio assignment worth twenty points. Students must form groups and collaborate to create an ePortfolio using Middlesex Community College's Digication website: middlesex.digication.com. This is the format required for each group to submit their work. A template is available upon signing into the course on the Digication platform. This assignment has five parts. The first four parts must be presented on their own dedicated tabs on the group's ePortfolio. The fifth is an in-class presentation of the group's work.

Project Materials

"Getting Started Digication Screenshots," a PDF produced for introducing Middlesex Community College students to ePortfolio (available via Blackboard).

Berlin, Isaiah. (1958) "Two Concepts of Liberty." In Isaiah Berlin, *Four Essays on Liberty*. Oxford: Oxford University Press 1969.

Badiou, Alain. *Ethics: An Essay on the Understanding of Evil*, transl. by Peter Hallward. New York: Verso, 2000.

Forrest E. Baird, *From Plato to Derrida* 6th ed., New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2010.

Getting Started: Setting up Your Group's ePortfolio

1. Create a group of no more than five people.
2. Designate one person as the group's ePortfolio editor.
 - a. Everyone in the group must consult materials for creating an ePortfolio (found under the "Content" area of our course's blackboard site).
 - b. The editor must create an ePortfolio.
 - c. The editor must then add everyone else in the group as additional editors.
3. Set up the group's ePortfolio according to the "Assignment Template ePortfolio."
 - a. Assign your group a name.
 - b. Assign your ePortfolio your group's name.

Part One (4 points): Case Study – One Tab

The group must select and agree on a global issue to work on for this assignment from the Global Issues Website (<http://www.globalissues.org/issue>). Each group member must then be designated a link on the ePortfolio's "Global Issue" tab. The link must use the student's name to link to their *five hundred-word* detailed portion of the group's "Case Study" (think "wiki" page with text, images and/or video) they author on the selected issue. Each Case Study must develop different topics related to the group's chosen global issue and include relevant annotated citation.

Here is an example of Part One's tab content using "Conservation":

Tab: Animal & Nature Conservation

Links:

Group Member 1 – Endangered and At Risk Species

Group Member 2 – Corporate Accountability

Group Member 3 – Challenges to Conservation and Sustainability

Part Two (8 points): Case Study Analysis Using Berlin or Badiou – *One Tab*

The group must collaborate to create a tab that contains links to a detailed *five hundred-word* analysis corresponding to each topic of the group's Case Study. Each analysis is to be linked by using group members' full names followed by the corresponding topic and the perspective applied (Badiou/Berlin); no one is to conduct analysis exclusively on the Case Study topic they produced.

Each analysis must be based on either Isaiah Berlin's perspective, as outlined in his "Two Concepts of Liberty," or Alain Badiou's "Ethics of Truth" perspective, from his book *Ethics: An Essay on the Understanding of Evil*.

- An analysis from Berlin's standpoint may, for example, promote the idea that the global issue in question arises from an affirmation of a particular orientation (intellectual, racial/ethnic, gender specific, religious, political, etc.) through an appeal to positive liberty. It may even include the idea that a specific understanding of a role negative liberty might be playing on said issue that may alleviate any perceived problem(s).
- From the perspective of Badiou, on the other hand, the global issue in question might be considered as arising, not from clashing expressions of positive liberty, but from a "nihilistic" *resignation* toward the "necessities" of the existing global order. Thus, any possibility of overcoming the issue would be considered, not in terms of fleeing evil (i.e. negatively), but in terms of the pursuit of a concept of the good, and of remaining true to that concept.

Here is an example of Part Two's tab content:

Tab: Badiou / Berlin Analysis of Animal & Nature Conservation

Links:

Group Member 2 – Endangered and At Risk Species – Badiou

Group Member 3 – Corporate Accountability – Badiou

Group Member 1 – Challenges to Conservation and Sustainability – Berlin

Part Three (4 points): Reflection Video Essays – *One Tab*

Each group member must create a two to five minute *Reflection Video Essay*. The video must include the following:

- Introduction of student and a list of contributions to the group's "Final Project."
- A personal note regarding the student's assessment of the global issue, the viability of the perspective they chose for Part Two, and a comment on civil or social responsibility regarding the global issue.
- A Reflection on the experience of working on the project.

Note: This part of the project is extremely flexible and can take various forms, i.e., a short documentary film, video reports, podcasts, original music, etc.

**Part Four (4 points): Class
Presentation**

Class presentations are to be up to twelve minutes in length. Each group member must present on their work in two two-minute segments. This will be followed by a two- minute question and answer period.

The presentation should be split into
three parts:

- The *first part* should allot each group member two minutes to explain their contribution to the group's chosen Case Study.
- Up to two minutes may be used to show videos associated with the work presented.
- The *second part* should allot each group member an additional two-minute presentation on their "Case Study Analysis."
- The *third part* should consist of a question and answer period not to exceed three minutes.